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The international search report, or the declaration under Article 17(2)(a) PCT, has been published under Article 21(3) and Rule 48 PCT on 30.03.06. That publication takes the place of the mention of publication of the European search report (Art. 157(1) EPC).

The request for examination must be filed within **six months** from the above date (Art. 94(2) in conjunction with Art. 157(1) EPC). It is not deemed to have been filed until the examination fee has been paid. However, under Article 22 or 39 PCT in conjunction with Article 150(2) and Rule 107(1) EPC, the time limit for filing it does not expire before the end of the 31st month from the filing date (or earliest priority date). Payment of the designation fees must also be made within the above-mentioned period (R. 107(1) EPC). The same applies also for the extension fees.

If the request for examination is not filed in due time, and at least one designation fee is not paid, the European patent application is deemed to be withdrawn (Art. 94(3), 79(3) and R. 108(1) EPC).

For more details see the Guide for applicants Part 2: PCT proceedings before the EPO-"Euro-PCT".

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